

1
2 **MULTI-FUNCTIONAL BIT & CONNECT-DISCONNECT**
3 **COUPLING USED THEREWITH**

4
5 **INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**
6

7 The inventors incorporate herein by reference any and all U. S.
8 patents, U. S. patent applications, and other documents cited or
9 referred to in this application or cited or referred to in the U. S. patents
10 and U. S. patent applications incorporated herein by reference.

11
12 **DEFINITIONS**
13

14 The words "comprising," "having," "containing," and "including,"
15 and other forms thereof, are intended to be equivalent in meaning and
16 be open ended in that an item or items following any one of these
17 words is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of such item or items, or
18 meant to be limited to only the listed item or items.

19
20 **BACKGROUND OF INVENTION**
21

22 A drill bit is commonly used to drill a hole so that a screw may
23 then be screwed into the hole using either a screwdriver or a
24 screwdriver bit inserted into a power drill. It is often desirable to form
25 a countersink around the hole so that the screw head will lie flush with,
26 or below the drilled surface. With power drills, a connect-disconnect
27 coupling, commonly referred to as a chuck, is frequently used to hold
28 the drill bit. The connect-disconnect coupling is attached to the power
29 drill in a manner that enables it to be detached when desired. U. S.

1 Patent No. 6,325,393 B1 is illustrative of such a connect-disconnect
2 coupling.

4 SUMMARY OF INVENTION

6 This invention has one or more features as discussed
7 subsequently herein. After reading the following section entitled
8 "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SOME EMBODIMENTS OF THIS
9 INVENTION," one will understand how the features of this invention
10 provide its benefits. The benefits of this invention include, but are not
11 limited to: a low cost, easy to manufacture multi-functional bit and a
12 connect-disconnect coupling specifically designed to accept and use the
13 bit of this invention, which is (a) conveniently interactive with the
14 connect-disconnect coupling of this invention, (b) enables a user to
15 drill a hole with a countersink, and (c) enables a user to drive a
16 fastener into the drilled hole.

17 Without limiting the scope of this invention as expressed by the
18 claims that follow, some, but not necessarily all, of its features are:

19 One, the bit of this invention may comprise three separate,
20 discrete components: a plate member including a cutting end, a driver
21 element, and a drill element, with the driver element and drill element
22 axially aligned. The plate member, driver element, and drill element,
23 typically metallic components, may be assembled together with the
24 plate member disposed intermediate the driver element and the drill
25 element and its cutting end adjacent to the drill element. The driver
26 element includes a driver head having a variety of different shapes
27 depending on the type of fastener it is designed to interact with. The
28 three components are fixedly connected together. Thus they remain in
29 a fixed position relative to each other so that they do not separate or

1 move relative to each other during use. For example, they may be
2 press fitted together. Alternately, or in addition to, they may be
3 bonded to each other by welding or gluing with a suitable metal
4 adhesive, or they may be pinned together.

5 Two, the cutting end of the plate member serves to cut into an
6 upper edge of a drilled hole a countersink concurrently when drilling
7 the hole. This cutting end may be tapered. The plate member may have
8 a pentagonal configuration with adjacent edges forming an apex
9 providing a tapered cutting end. This apex merges with the drill
10 element when the plate member is connected therewith. The plate
11 member may have a uniform, predetermined thickness. A non-cutting
12 end of the plate member opposed to the cutting end may have a cut-a-
13 way section that receives the drill element.

14 Three, one element, or both of the drill and driver elements, may
15 have an elongated axial groove therein. The plate member fits snugly
16 within the groove. When both elements each have an elongated axial
17 groove therein, the plate member has portions fitting snugly within
18 each groove. Moreover, one of the elements may have at one end an
19 axial cavity therein and the other element has an end that fits snugly
20 within this cavity. The driver element may have a diameter that is
21 greater than a diameter of drill element. In such case, the driver
22 element has in one end the cavity into which the drill element fits
23 snugly. The drill element may have a diameter that is greater than a
24 diameter of driver element. In such case, the drill element has in one
25 end the cavity into which the driver element fits snugly.

26 Four, in one embodiment, the slot in the plate member may have
27 at least one edge and a first end portion of the drill element may have
28 at least one sunken guideway therein which receives this edge of the
29 slot. Typically, in this one embodiment, the slot has a pair of opposed

edges and the first end portion of the drill element has a pair of opposed sunken guideways that receives these opposed edges. The plate member slides along these guideways as this first end portion of the drill element is being inserted into the cavity in the driver element. The sunken guideways may have a width that is slightly less than the thickness of the plate member, so that a press fit is achieved upon connection.

Five, the plate member and drill and drive elements may each have a locking section enabling these three components upon assembly together to interlock. These locking sections may be in the form of the grooves, slots, cut-a-way sections, guideways, and cavities. In one embodiment, the locking section, or sections, of each separate component has predetermined dimensions that enable the components to be press fitted together upon assembly, forming a frictional bond holding these components in the fixed position relative to each other. In such a case, an auxiliary bonding mechanism may be used in addition to the frictional bond holding these components in the fixed position relative to each other.

Six, in one embodiment, the driver element includes an elongated body having a longitudinal axis and a predetermined diameter. In this one embodiment, there is a cavity at an end of the driver element body. This cavity may be axially aligned with the longitudinal axis of the driver element body and is open at the end of the driver element body. This cavity typically has a predetermined diameter smaller than the diameter of the driver element body. A groove of predetermined width in the second end of the driver element body may intersect this cavity. Optionally, there is a pair of annular channels between the first and second ends of the body of the driver element that are used with certain types of connect-disconnect couplings, including the connect-

1 disconnect couplings of this invention.

2 Seven, in one embodiment, the plate member may have in its
3 non-cutting end a longitudinal slot that receives an end portion of the
4 body of the drill element upon connecting the plate member and drill
5 element. Upon assembly, the slot may be axially aligned along the
6 longitudinal axis of the body of the driver element. Thus, upon
7 connecting the plate member and driver and drill elements together,
8 the end portion of the drill element extends through the slot and into
9 the cavity in the driver element and the non-cutting end of the plate
10 member is inserted into the groove in the driver element intersecting
11 the cavity in the end of this driver element. The slot in the plate
12 member may have a predetermined width that is slightly less than the
13 diameter of the end portion of the drill element body, and the groove
14 intersecting the cavity in the end of this driver element may have a
15 predetermined thickness slightly less than the thickness of the plate
16 member. Thus, a press fit is achieved upon sliding the first end
17 portion of the drill element into the slot and sliding the plate member
18 into the groove intersecting the cavity in the end of this driver
19 element.

20 Eight, in one embodiment, the drill element includes an
21 elongated body having an end portion with a diameter typically
22 slightly larger than the diameter of the cavity in the driver element.
23 The driver element and drill element are substantially axially aligned
24 and the end portion of the drill element is at least partially inserted
25 into the cavity, typically by press fitting to force this end portion into
26 the cavity. Another end portion of the drill element includes a drill
27 segment for drilling a hole in an object.

28 Nine, this invention also includes the connect-disconnect
29 coupling that detachably holds the bit. When a drilled hole is to be

1 made in an object, the driver element is inserted into an open mouth in
2 the connect-disconnect coupling including a slot that has a
3 predetermined size and configuration that receives the plate member.
4 The drill element extends outward from the coupling and is used to
5 drill a hole with the plate member concurrently forming a countersink.
6 When a fastener and the like is to be driven into the drilled hole, the
7 bit is removed from the coupling and the drill element is inserted into
8 the coupling with the plate member again being received within the
9 slot in the coupling. The driver element now extends outward from the
10 coupling and is used to drive the fastener into the drilled hole with the
11 countersink.

12 These features are not listed in any rank order nor is this list
13 intended to be exhaustive.

15 DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING

16
17 Some embodiments of this invention, illustrating all its features,
18 will now be discussed in detail. These embodiments depict the novel
19 and non-obvious bit and coupling of this invention as shown in the
20 accompanying drawing, which is for illustrative purposes only. This
21 drawing includes the following figures (Figs.), with like numerals
22 indicating like parts:

23
24 Fig. 1 is a perspective view, with sections broken away, of one
25 embodiment of the bit and connect-disconnect coupling of this
26 invention, showing the drill element of the bit almost completely
27 inserted into the coupling.

28 Fig. 1A is a perspective view, with sections broken away, of the bit
29 and coupling depicted in Fig. 1, showing the driver element of the bit

1 almost completely inserted into the coupling.

2 Fig. 2 is a perspective view similar to that depicted in Fig. 1,
3 showing the drill element of the bit partially inserted into the coupling.

4 Fig. 2A is a perspective view of this invention showing the driver
5 element aligned to be inserted into the coupling.

6 Fig. 3 is an exploded perspective view of the multi-functional bit
7 of this invention shown in Fig. 1.

8 Fig. 3A is an exploded side view, with an inner end section of the
9 driver element broken away, of the multi-functional bit of this
10 invention shown in Fig. 1.

11 Fig. 3B is a side view of the multi-functional bit shown in Fig. 3A
12 showing its components assembled together.

13 Fig. 3C is cross-sectional view of the multi-functional bit taken
14 along line 3C-3C of Fig. 3B.

15 Fig. 3D is an end view of the screwdriver element taken along line
16 3D-3D of Fig. 3A.

17 Fig. 3E is an end view of the drill element taken along line 3E-3E
18 of Fig. 3A.

19 Fig. 4 is a side view of the bit partially inserted into the connect-
20 disconnect coupling of this invention shown in cross-section.

21 Fig. 5A is perspective view of a drill element used in an alternate
22 embodiment of the bit of this invention shown in Fig. 5C.

23 Fig. 5B is an end view of the drill element shown in Fig. 5A taken
24 along line 5B-5B of Fig. 5A.

25 Fig. 5C is a fragmentary side view, partially in cross-section, of
26 the alternate embodiment of the bit of this invention employing the
27 drill element shown in Fig. 5A.

28 Fig. 5D is cross-sectional view taken along line 5D-5D of Fig. 5C.

29 Fig. 6A is a perspective view of another embodiment of the bit of

1 this invention, showing a groove in the drill element that receives the
2 plate member.

3 Fig. 6B is an exploded perspective view of the bit of this invention
4 shown in Fig. 6A.

5 Fig. 7A is a perspective view of still another embodiment of the
6 bit of this invention, showing a cavity in an end of the drill element
7 that receives an end of the driver element.

8 Fig. 7B is an exploded perspective view of the bit of this invention
9 shown in Fig. 7A.

10 Fig. 8A is a perspective view of still another embodiment of the
11 bit of this invention, showing grooves in the ends of the driver and
12 drill elements that each receive a portion of the plate member.

13 Fig. 8B is an exploded perspective view of the bit of this invention
14 shown in Fig. 8A.

15
16 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SOME EMBODIMENTS OF THIS INVENTION
17

18 Figs. 1, 1A, 2 and 2A depict one embodiment of the multi-
19 functional bit of this invention, namely, the bit 12, being inserted into
20 one embodiment of the connect-disconnect coupling of this invention,
21 namely, the coupling 14 (Fig. 4). As best depicted in Fig. 3, the bit 12
22 has at one end a drill element 16 and at its other end a screwdriver
23 element 18. Between these elements 16 and 18 is a plate member 20
24 that provides means for forming a countersink at the mouth of a
25 drilled hole. All these three separate and discrete components 16, 18,
26 and 20 are made of metal selected for its properties for the intended
27 application. Typically, various grades of steel are employed.

28 As shown in Fig. 1A, the connect-disconnect coupling 14 may be
29 connected to a power drill (not shown) with the drill element 16

1 extending outward, enabling a user to drill a hole using the drill
2 element 16, with the plate member 20 concurrently forming a
3 countersink at the mouth of the drilled hole. As shown in Fig. 1, to
4 drive a screw, or other type of fastener and the like, into the drilled
5 hole, the bit 12 is detached from the connect-disconnect coupling 14,
6 inverted, and reinserted into the connect-disconnect coupling with the
7 screwdriver element 18 extending outward from the drill.

8 As best depicted in Figs. 3 and 3A, the multi-functional bit 12 has
9 a longitudinal central axis X that extends from the outer end 18a of the
10 screwdriver element 18 to an outer end 22b of the drill element 16.
11 The central axes of the drill element 16, the screwdriver element 18,
12 and the plate member 20 may be each coincident with the central axis
13 X of the bit 12. The screwdriver element 18 includes an elongated
14 body 28 having a hexagonal cross-section with a pair of annular
15 channels 30, 32 in the body terminating at an outer end 28a in the
16 form of a screwdriver head 34. While a Phillips-type screwdriver head
17 is depicted, other driver heads such as a flat-head type, an Allen
18 wrench, or a socket driver could be used. These, and other types of
19 driver heads, come within the meaning of the term "driver element."
20 The annular channels 30 and 32 are spaced apart along the outer
21 surface 28c of the elongated body 28, and each may have a depth d_2
22 (Fig. 3C), where the depth d_2 may be about equal to the radius of ball
23 bearings 58 and 60 (Fig. 4) that may be employed in connect-
24 disconnect couplings 14 illustrated in Fig 4.

25 In an inner end 28b of the body 28 of the driver element 18 is a
26 cavity 36 formed by boring into the body along the central axis X. As
27 best shown in Fig. 3D, this cavity 36 has an open mouth 37, located
28 flush with the inner end 28b, that has a configuration that has
29 essentially the same shape as an insert portion 26 (Fig. 3E) of the drill

1 element 16. In the embodiment illustrated, both the open mouth 37
2 and the insert portion 26 have a substantially fattened oval shape with
3 the major diameter d_7 of the insert portion 26 being slightly greater
4 than the major diameter d_8 of the open mouth 37 of the cavity 36.
5 Specifically, as depicted in Fig. 3D, the cavity 36 has a pair of opposed
6 flat sidewalls 36a, 36b and a pair of opposed curved sidewalls 36c, 36d,
7 and a floor 36e (Fig. 3B). This cavity 36 extends inward towards the
8 outer end 18a of the screwdriver element 18 to a depth d_4 (Fig. 3B).
9 The inserted portion 26 may have a length l_1 (Figs. 3 and 3A) that is
10 equal to or less than the depth d_4 of the cavity 36.

11 As shown in Fig. 3D, there is a groove 38 (Fig. 3D) intersecting
12 central axis X and positioned crosswise to the cavity 36. This groove 38
13 has a substantially rectangular configuration, with a width w_2 . It
14 extends lengthwise into the body 28 and has a depth d_1 (Fig. 2A) that
15 is may be equal to or greater than the depth d_4 of the cavity 36. The
16 cavity's depth d_4 may be, however, less than the depth d_1 of the groove
17 38. The centers of the groove 38 and cavity 36 may each be coincident
18 with the central axis X.

19 As shown best in Fig. 3A, the plate member 20 fits into the groove
20 38. The plate member 20 may have many different shapes. In the
21 embodiment depicted, it is generally pentagonal in shape with opposed
22 exterior, parallel sidewall portions S1 (Fig. 2) and S2 (Fig. 2A), so that
23 the plate member 20 is of substantially uniform thickness t (Fig. 2A).
24 The plate member 20 comprises a pair of opposed side edges 20a, 20b,
25 a pair of tapered side edges 20c, 20d, a base side edge 20e, and an
26 elongated, central slot 40. The tapered side edges 20c, 20d extend from
27 the side edges 20a and 20b towards each other, at substantially the
28 same angle and end at a common apex a (straight line shown in dotted
29 lines Fig. 3A). The angle and length of the tapered side edges 20c, 20d

may be sized to match the head of the screw to be driven, such that, when a countersink is formed, the screw lies flush with, or below, the surface of the drilled object.

The central axis X may divide the plate member 20 into two equally sized halves such that each half is a mirror image of the other. As best shown in Fig. 3A, the slot 40 has a base wall 40a and a pair of sidewalls 40b, 40c that extend in parallel from the base wall to the apex a. The slot 40 has a width w_3 and a length l_5 . The width w_3 of the slot 40 and the thickness t of the plate 20 may be about equal, or the width w_3 may be slightly less than the thickness t so that a press fit may be achieved. The length l_5 may be about equal to the length l_1 (Fig. 3A) of the insert portion 26. The inserted portion 26 of the drill element 16 may have a length l_1 that is about equal to the length l_5 of the slot 40.

Referring to Figs. 3A and 3E, the drill element 16 comprises a generally cylindrical body 22 having an inner end 22a, an outer end 22b, drilling portion 24 and the insert portion 26. The drilling portion 24 has a spiraling flute 24a that extends from the outer end 22b to the insert portion 26. The length l_3 (Fig. 3C) of the drilling portion 24 is typically sized to be equal to or greater than the length of the screw to be driven. The insert portion 26 extends from the inner end 22a to the drilling portion 24 and has a flatten oval, cross-sectional shape comprising a pair of opposed, flat sidewalls 26a, 26b (Fig. 3E), and a pair of opposed curved sidewalls 26c, 26d. This flatten oval cross-sectional shape of the insert portion 26 is substantially the same as the cross-sectional shape of the cavity 36, but with slightly greater dimensions so that a press fit may be achieved. The width w_4 of the insert portion 26 (the distance between the opposed flat sidewalls 26a and 26b) and the width w_3 of the slot 40 of the plate member 20 may be about equal, or the width w_3 may be slightly less than the width w_4

1 so that a press fit may be achieved.

2 The drill element 16 is connected to the plate member 20 by
3 inserting the inner end 22a of the drill element into the slot 40 of the
4 plate member 20. Referring to Fig. 3C, as the insert portion 26
5 advances into the slot 40 in the plate member 20, the flat sidewalls
6 26a, 26b of the inserted portion contact and are, respectively, pressed
7 against the sidewalls 40b, 40c of the slot until the inner end 22a of the
8 drill element 16 abuts the base wall 40a of the slot. The assembled
9 drill element 16 and plate member 20 may then be inserted into the
10 cavity 36 with the plate member being press fitted into the groove 38
11 in the screwdriver element 18. The curved sidewalls 26c and 26d of
12 the insert portion 26 now contact and are, respectively, pressed against
13 the curved sidewalls 36c and 36d of the cavity 36 in the driver element
14 18. The plate member 20 may be inserted along a portion or the entire
15 depth d_4 of the groove 38, filling this groove. The driver element 18,
16 the drill element 16, and plate member 20 are now frictionally bonded
17 together.

18 As discussed above, the dimensions of the cavity 36, groove 38,
19 slot 40, plate 20, and insert portion 26 are carefully controlled so that
20 these components are interlocked together by a press fit. Although the
21 drill element 16, plate member 20, and screwdriver element 18 may be
22 coupled together solely by press fitting, it may be desirable to reinforce
23 or otherwise supplement the frictional bond between these three
24 separate components. For example, to insure against disconnection,
25 these separate components may be welded, glued with a metal
26 adhesive, or pinned by drilling an aperture (not shown) through the
27 assembled driver element 18, the drill element 16, and plate member
28 20 and forcing a pin (not shown) into this aperture.

29 Figs. 5A through 5D illustrate an alternate embodiment of the bit

1 of this invention, namely, the bit 100. This bit 100 is similar to the bit
2 12 and includes the screwdriver element 18 connected to the plate
3 member 20 as discussed above and a drill element 116 having an
4 inserted portion 126 including a pair of sunken guideways 82 and 84.
5 These sunken guideways 82 and 84 are aligned and each have a flat
6 bottom wall 126a and 126b, respectively. These bottom walls 126a and
7 126b are spaced apart by the distance d_5 that is equal to the width w_3
8 of the slot 40 in the plate member 20. The sunken guideways 82, 84
9 have a width w_5 slightly less than the thickness t of the plate member
10 20. Upon press fitting the plate member 20 and the inserted portion
11 126 together, the inserted portion 126 extends into the slot 40 in the
12 plate member 20 with the sidewall 40b of the plate member 20 bearing
13 against the bottom wall 126a, the sidewall 40c of the plate member 20
14 bearing against the bottom wall 126b, and the end 126c of the inserted
15 portion 126 abutting the base wall 20e of the plate member 20. A
16 press fit is achieved, with the sides of the sunken guideways 82, 84
17 pressing against the opposed exterior sidewall portions S1 and S2 of
18 the plate member 20 adjacent the slot 40 to laterally support the plate
19 member. As discussed above, it may be desirable to reinforce or
20 otherwise supplement the frictional bond between these three separate
21 components.

22 Figs. 6A and 6B illustrate another embodiment of the bit of this
23 invention, namely, the bit 200. The bit 200 includes three
24 components: a drill element 202, a driver element 204, and a plate
25 member 206 disposed between the adjacent ends A and B, respectively
26 of the drill element and driver element. There is a cylindrical cavity
27 210 in the end B of the driver element 204 into which the cylindrical
28 end A of the drill element 202 fits snugly. The plate member 206,
29 being substantially pentagonal in shape, has four of the five sides of a

1 pentagon, but the fifth side has therein a substantially U-shaped cut-a-
2 way section 212 with a width w_6 that is about equal to the diameter of
3 the end B of the driver element 204. In the end A of the drill element
4 202 there is an elongated axial groove 208 extending inward along the
5 bit's longitudinal axis X1. This groove 208 has a width that is
6 substantially equal to the thickness t of the plate member 206. Upon
7 assembly of the three components, a cutting end 206a of the plate 206
8 is received in the groove 208 and the end B of the driver element 204
9 fits snugly into this cut-a-way section 212. These components may be
10 force fitted together or an auxiliary bonding mechanism in addition to
11 the frictional bond may be used to hold these components in a fixed
12 position relative to each other.

13 Figs. 7A and 7B illustrate another embodiment of the bit of this
14 invention, namely, the bit 300. The bit 300 includes three
15 components: a drill element 302, a driver element 304, and a plate
16 member 306 disposed between the adjacent ends C and D, respectively
17 of the drill element and driver element. There is a cavity 310 in the
18 end C of the drill element 302 having a hexagonal configuration
19 substantially of the same dimensions as the cross-sectional shape of the
20 end D of the driver element 304. The plate member 306 is substantially
21 of the same shape as the plate member 206 and includes a
22 substantially U-shaped cut-a-way section 312 that is about equal to the
23 diameter of the end D of the driver element 304. In the end C there is
24 an elongated axial groove 308 therein extending inward along the
25 longitudinal axis X2 having a width that is substantially equal to the
26 thickness t of the plate member 306. Upon assembly of the three
27 components, a cutting end 306a of the plate 306 is received in the
28 groove 308 and the end D of the driver element 304 fits snugly into the
29 cut-a-way section 312 and also into the cavity 310. These components

1 may be force fitted together or an auxiliary bonding mechanism may
2 be employed such as discussed above.

3 Figs. 8A and 8B illustrate another embodiment of the bit of this
4 invention, namely, the bit 400. The bit 400 includes three
5 components: a drill element 402, a driver element 404, and a plate
6 member 406 disposed between the adjacent ends E and F, respectively
7 of the drill element and driver element. There is a cavity 410 in the
8 end E of the drill element 402 having a hexagonal configuration
9 substantially of the same dimensions as the cross-sectional shape of the
10 end F of the driver element 404. The plate member 406 has a
11 pentagonal shape with a cutting end 406a. In the end E is an elongated
12 axial groove 408 therein extending inward along the longitudinal axis
13 X3 having a width that is substantially equal to the thickness t of the
14 plate member 406. In the end F is an elongated axial groove 409
15 therein extending inward along the longitudinal axis X3 having a width
16 that is substantially equal to the thickness t of the plate member 406.
17 Upon assembly of the three components, the cutting end portion 406a
18 of the plate 406 is received in the groove 408 in the drill element 402
19 and a non-cutting end portion 406 end of the plate 406 is received in
20 the groove 409 in the driver element 404. The plate 406 fits snugly in
21 the grooves 408 and 409 and the driver element 304 fits snugly into
22 the cavity 410. These components may be force fitted together or an
23 auxiliary bonding mechanism may be employed such as discussed
24 above.

25 26 Connect-Disconnect Coupling

27
28 The bits of this invention may be used with the connect-
29 disconnect coupling of this invention. The use of the bit 12 with the

embodiment of the connect-disconnect coupling of this invention, the coupling 14, is illustrative. The coupling 14 is connected to a drill (not shown) and the bit 12 inserted therein is first used to create a drilled hole and countersink, and then to drive a screw or other type of fastener and the like into the drilled hole. A user first connects the connect-disconnect coupling 14 to a drill (not shown) by inserting an arm 68 of the coupling into a clamping mechanism of the drill. Referring to Figs. 1, 2 and 4, the user inserts the outer end 18a of the screwdriver element 18 of the bit 12 into the connect-disconnect coupling 14 by grasping a sleeve 44 of the coupling and moving it inward I into an unlocked position. As the bit 12 moves inward, the ball bearings 58 and 60 interact with the annular channels 30 and 32 in the screwdriver element 18. When the bit 12 is properly positioned in the coupling 14, portions of the ball bearings 58 and 60 extend into the annular channel 32 in the screwdriver element 18. The user then releases his or her grasp of the sleeve 44 and a sleeve spring 48 moves the sleeve outwardly O into a locked position. The sleeve 44 now applies a radial inward force on the ball bearings 58 and 60 to lock the bit 12 in the connect-disconnect coupling 14 with the drill element 16 extending outward as shown in Fig. 1A.

Using the drill element 16 of the bit 12, the user then drills a hole in an object (not shown) to a depth so that tapered sides 20c, 20d of the plate member 20 can contact the object being drilled. As the drill element 16 rotates and advances, the tapered sides 20c, 20d form a countersink at the mouth of the hole being drilled in the object. Once the countersink is formed and the drill element 16 removed from the hole being drilled, the bit 12 is removed from the connect-disconnect coupling 14. The user removes the bit 12 by moving the sleeve 44 inwardly in the direction of the arrow I to the unlocked position. The

1 user grasps the bit 12 and manually removes it from the connect-
2 disconnect coupling 14. The user may grasp a portion of the plate
3 member 20 to aid in holding the bit 12.

4 The user now reinserts the bit 12, inserting the drill element 22
5 and the plate member 20 into the connect-disconnect coupling 14.
6 When inserted, the drill element 22 lies within the coupling 14 and the
7 screwdriver element 18 extends outward from the coupling as shown in
8 Fig. 1. The bit 12 is locked in position by releasing the grasp of the
9 sleeve 44 with the sleeve spring 48 moving the sleeve outward **O** into
10 the locked position. The ball bearings 58 and 60 now lie within
11 annular channel 30. The user may then use the screwdriver element 18
12 to drive a screw etc. into the drilled hole. When the screw is completely
13 driven in, the head of the screw may lie within the countersink such
14 that the screw head is flush with, or below the surface of the object. To
15 remove the bit, the sleeve 44 is again moved into the unlocked
16 position. Upon moving from a locked to an unlocked position, a
17 plunger spring 50 in the coupling that is compressed upon insertion of
18 the bit 12 into the coupling 14, expands and ejects the bit 12 from the
19 connect-disconnect coupling.

21 SCOPE OF THE INVENTION

22
23 The above presents a description of the best mode contemplated
24 of carrying out the present invention, and of the manner and process
25 of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as
26 to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and
27 use this invention. This invention is, however, susceptible to
28 modifications and alternate constructions from that discussed above
29 which are fully equivalent. Consequently, it is not the intention to

1 limit this invention to the particular embodiments disclosed. On the
2 contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications and alternate
3 constructions coming within the spirit and scope of the invention as
4 generally expressed by the following claims, which particularly point
5 out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention: